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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/084,009	02/26/2002	Joseph P. Jones	9858-000018	8037
7590	07/13/2004			EXAMINER
Kelly K. Burris, Esq. Harness, Dickey & Pierce, P.L.C. Suite 400 7700 Bonhomme Avenue Saint Louis, MO 63105			PASCHALL, MARK H	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3742	
DATE MAILED: 07/13/2004				

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/084,009	JONES ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Mark H Paschall	3742

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b). (

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-99 is/are pending in the application.
4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) 1-33 and 75-96 is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 34-38, 41-48, 52, 53, 55-59, 62, 64, 65, 67-72, 74 and 97 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) 39, 40, 49-51, 54, 60, 61, 63, 66, 73 and 98 is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on 26 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.

Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).

11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11-20-03, 02-26-02.

4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____ .

5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) Other: ____ .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Objections

Claims 40 and 51 are objected to because of the following informalities: In line 3 of both claims the term "vent", should be changed to "vents". Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 34-37,41-48,52,53,55-60,62,64,65,67-75,97 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being clearly anticipated by Lu et al 795'. Lu et al in figure 9a and 9b teach a swirl ring which is movable in lieu of moving the electrodes. The tip is construed as the flange on electrode 412 (446) , and the initiator 62,64,66 is translated away from the tip to produce a pilot arc as claimed resilient bias is produced by spring 526. The cartridge assembly comprises the initiator and surrounding structure such as 526. The holes in the swirl ring portion 62 are radially directed as claimed. As per claim 45 the initiator has a beveled surface, which contacts the tip means.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary. Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claim 99 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lu et al 795' in view of Enyedy et al. Lu et al teach the claimed subject matter except for first moving the initiator into contact with the tip and the moving it out of contact. Enyedy et al teach this procedure as conventional with the electrode and tip moving first into contact and the out of contact. This allows for the benefit of a test procedure to be effected. In view of this teaching it would have been obvious to modify the Lu et al system to initially have the tip separated from the initiator, so as to obtain the benefit of a test procedure for torch components if desired.

Allowable Subject Matter

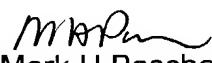
Claims 1-33,75-96 are allowed. Claims are allowable for setting forth both a tip and electrode in conjunction with an initiator that is movable and separates from the tip to form a pilot arc.

Claims 38-40, 49-51, 54, 61, 63, 66, 73 and 98 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims are objected to since the prior art of record does not teach axial vent holes for the venting. As per claim 73 the prior art does not teach the claimed initiator structure having an annular wall with vent holes.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark H Paschall whose telephone number is 703 308-1642. The examiner can normally be reached on 7am - 3pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Ehud Gartenberg can be reached on 703 308-2634. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Mark H Paschall
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3742